

## Uranium Mining in Otish Mountains?

First Nations and NDP's Jack Layton

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# Jeep WRANGLER

# The multiple ways to skin a cat (or a municipality)

by Will Nicholls

I've always liked the old saying that there's more than one way to skin a cat. Personally, I wouldn't waste my time skinning a cat (the pelt isn't worth much), but I do try to implement the lesson in looking for more than one solution to a particular problem.

It was this attitude that, during an enormous struggle, the Crees employed in relegating the Great Whale hydro-electric project to the dust-gathering shelf.

Crees would face, and overcome, other challenges that have not diminished in scale.

One of the challenges facing Crees these days is the Municipality of James Bay (MJB). In what was a little-noticed (at that time) move, a law was passed in Quebec's National Assembly that awarded control over Category III lands in Eeyou Istchee to the Municipality of James Bay.

This intrusion of foreign power is being felt in many areas. Some Crees have told of finding their camps posted with orders to rebuild or renovated to meet MJB building codes. Others have told of favorite places such as shorelines suddenly having cabins appear. Though some are illegal squatters there are some who some are legally there as they have been granted a permit by the MJB.

The municipality also now has a say in mining and other industry on Category III lands.

This challenge for the Cree leadership is of vital importance. They cannot recognize the rights awarded to the MJB as legitimate. Indeed, nor should any Cree, as that foot in the door seems to be getting bigger every time we look at it.

However, as private citizens, Cree and non-Cree alike, we are less bound than they are.

So begin by remembering there is another old saying: with great powers come great responsibilities.

During a meeting at Ouje-Bougoumou I learnt that garbage dumps are one responsibility of the MJB. This includes the clean-up of illegal dumps. They must foot the cost of cleaning up such dumps if they cannot find the person or company that dumped the garbage.

I am sure many of the MJB politicians had dollar signs in their eyes when the Quebec government gave them rights over Category III lands. Let's show them the dollar signs are not always just revenue. In other words, let's bury them under paperwork and costs of clean-up.

It would have the added bonus of being able to include all the illegal squatter sites that pollute our territory. Maybe we'll finally get some action on that issue.

To make a complaint I recommend a photo and directions to the location of the dump. Call attention to the fact they are responsible for cleaning it up. Get hold of Radisson, Chibougamau, Matagami and Amos municipalities, just to name a few of the members of the MJB. Complain and then send a copy of the complaint and photo of the site to [nation@beesum.ca](mailto:nation@beesum.ca). When we get enough of them we'll put them up on a website. The illegal garbage sites can be anywhere, even if the area is only accessible by plane, helicopter, hiking or boat. They can be any size.

You can also inform your local band council by sending copies to the land use or environment officer in your band council.

There are occasions when being an "ordinary concerned citizen" is the right thing to do.

The ultimate issue of whether or not the MJB have any rights over Eeyou Istchee must be left to the politicians but there is more than one way to skin a cat.

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## on the cover

Photo: Jamie-Fawn Mianscum

Design: Little Rick

# Losing it big time



I once was walking (I'm lying, I was driving) by a road in Chisasibi and noticed that my cousin was walking at a quick pace. I asked him what he was up to and he replied that he was losing weight, about a pound or two. Another quick walker sashayed by and joked that she just found some weight on the side of the road and wanted to know who lost it.

I rolled up the window (in those days, electric windows were unheard of and ambitious people who really wanted to lose weight were even rarer) and drove off in a blaze of diesel smoke (being eco-conscious and all, I used a diesel vehicle which ran at 55 miles per gallon, therefore I never really had to turn it off because it could idle for days) and thought about losing it another way.

Losing weight was never really on anybody's minds, not knowing that diabetes and other afflictions were rampant amongst the hefty ones. Losing the fat off your body meant you had nothing in store for lean days, which back in the day meant quite a few days per year and losing weight was meaningless as fat was the target energy source for everyone. Gradually, sugar in everything took over and maladies upon maladies struck full force amongst many who were dietary unconscious of their high caloric intake.

Slowly, the benefits of tasty fat burgers and a poutine-based lifestyle seem like an invitation to see a heart surgeon at age 35 or so. The seemingly happy days when an egg was bad and broccoli was even worse have now been reversed to reflect a slimmer future for many. Yep, we're talking dieting now folks, all about wholesome foods, smaller portions, lard-

(now labeled a killer right up there with nicotine) free zones, a canola smorgasbord of leaves and legumes, protein drinks, exercise and workouts, walks and talks of a future without the aches and pains of carrying around excess baggage. Losing it by the pound is now matched by the kilo, which seems less but feels better.

In many communities, the health and weight concerns of our community members grew rapidly and those in the know became determined to lose the fatty cells by the millions. In Whapmagoostui, as far as I can see, about a hundred people are taking "the program." It seems to be working so far. Some have lost 90 pounds, some 60, some have just started. Averaging it all out, about a hundred pounds per day are being lost here, and no one is claiming them back on the side of the roads, so, where is it all going?

The green section of the local food market is nearly bare come delivery day and fights have occurred over the cucumbers. Lettuce heads are now becoming precious commodities, brown or not.

I hear that some are talking growing their own food, which is the most arduous way to lose the sickly fat since it takes so long to harvest. You'd probably starve to death before gnawing on a carrot or gnashing out on a celery stick. Of course, all this is good in the long run. Instead of wheezing your way up the highway to Heart Attack City, you'll be breezing your way into a bikini or zipping by in a Speedo.

Whichever way works best for those anxious to bare more than an ankle or wrist, losing it big time this time means a good time for all.

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# Uranium mining coming to Eeyou Istchee?

by Steve Bonspiel

Boucherville-based Strateco Resources Inc. has announced its intention to build Quebec's first uranium mine in Eeyou Istchee's Otish Mountains. It could be in operation as early as 2011.

The mine has been in the exploration stages for a couple of years. Strateco is expected to spend \$16 million on drilling and other facets of exploration in 2007 alone. Construction of the mine is projected to cost \$125 million.

A German company explored the area for uranium in 1992, but when world uranium prices fell, the company went bankrupt. As uranium prices skyrocketed in recent years, however, Strateco started negotiations for the claim in the Otish Mountains and secured exclusive rights in 2006. Nuclear power is seen as a greener power source in an era that is increasingly concerned by global warming and high prices for conventional energy sources.

Strateco CEO Guy Hébert told *the Nation* that he hopes Crees from Mistissini would be working on the mine if the Cree/Quebec environmental review board COMEX approves the project.

He also said that Cree workers will be finishing their contracts at the Troilus mine north of Chibougamau in the next few years and already have the necessary training to work in a mine.

Uranium mining operations are supposed to take special precautions because of the high levels of gamma radiation involved. Hébert said that his company takes safety seriously and that a government-mandated sum of money will be set aside to clean up the site after the Strateco mine is exhausted.

Baseline data is also being gathered to measure radiation levels before, during and after the life of the mine.

He also added that a dosimeter, used to measure high levels of hazardous substances, would check each worker at the end of the day.

Cree Grand Chief Mathew Mukash declined to comment at this point, saying he wants to learn more about the project and the industry.

Geologist Chris Covell, who is locally well known from his role in the Oujé-Bougoumou contamination controversy, said a uranium mine could be very dangerous.

"The long and short of it is that if the contamination, which is inevitable from uranium, is not dealt with and decontaminated properly prior to the workers leaving the site as per proper procedure, then the contamination will spread," said Covell.

His fear is that Cree workers, even with the help of the dosimeter, could bring uranium contamination back with them into the communities after working their shift.

There are currently 45 workers working three drills, some of whom are Cree.

The scary part, said Covell, is that uranium contamination (which remains toxic for thousands of years), is not visible. So when mom and dad end up with cancer or leukemia, it might be

due to high radiation levels gathered from the mine over a long period of time.

"Say you're a construction worker and you go in and rip a building apart and you get sheet rock dust all over you," Covell said. "You get it in your boots and your clothes. That you can see. You can see it in the laundry room, you can see it in your truck, and you can see it blowing around. But with uranium, you can't."

The Dene of Deline, Northwest Territories, have dealt with the effects of uranium mining at Port Radium. Their village became known as "the village of widows" after an unprecedented number of their men became stricken with cancer and died.

A report was released in 2005 detailing the difficulty in linking the uranium exposure of the workers, who were transporters of the ore, to cancer. Concrete evidence may be tough to find as most of the men have passed away after working in the mine that had a life span of over 30 years.

The Otish Mountains are brimming with activity and are "on a lot of people's radar," according to Robert Orviss of Becher McMahon Capital Markets. His firm organized an Otish Basin Uranium Conference last month in Toronto.

Covell added that radiation charts used by most countries are not designed for safe levels of exposure for infants. They can identify what a safe level for a man in his 40s at average height, but until that number better reflects the size and vulnerability of a child, kids are the most vulnerable.

Hébert agreed that everyone should be aware of the risks if a uranium mine is opened in the area of the Otish Mountains.

"You can't fool around with it," he said. "You don't want to have too much exposure."

Uranium does have different effects on each individual, said Covell. Exposure doesn't guarantee cancer, but it does increase the risk significantly.

"Everyone is different," he said. "For some people it won't show up until some time down the road. For others, it will show up immediately."

Covell compared it to cigarette smoking. He lost an uncle at the age of 35 due to smoking, yet his father smoked for many years and only quit at 50, but is still apparently healthy at 72.

Covell said that the economic benefits of a potential uranium mine do not outweigh the high price it exacts in the health of workers and their communities. "The cost is not worth the human sacrifice that comes along with it," he said.

"What's the cost of a life? What if it was your brother or sister? Also what is the Cree Nation going to get out of it? In my mind, there is no safe way to mine uranium."

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photo courtesy of Karine Labelle

# Cree Karate kids kick it in Ottawa

## Come home with gold medal, great experience

By Steve Bonspiel

Karate has come a long way in the past two years in Eeyou Istchee, and judging by the success Cree Karatekas are having at competitions, the sport looks like it is here to stay.

Thanks to the Simba Academy, which employs traditional Japanese knowledge in its approach to the martial art, Crees of all ages are learning respect, honour and dignity and at the same time, progressing quickly in the ancient sport.

June 23 was an important day for Karate in the north as seven Karatekas headed to the Algonquin College Gymnasium in Ottawa to show off their skills in a friendly competition.

During the competition, which attracted 160 students from four provinces, only brown and black belts were able to fight, albeit in a friendly way so as not to inflict injury.

Jeremy Matches competed in the adult coloured belt category in the Kata discipline. In layman's terms, he had to demonstrate control over the movements and routines he's learned since he took up the sport. And he didn't disappoint, winning gold, which was the only medal garnered by a Cree that day.

"I learned respect and discipline and I'm happy that I won," Matches told *the Nation*.

He said that practicing at Wemindji's dojo helped to prepare him for the competition. He is looking forward to the second annual Cree Nation Karate Championship in August.

He seems to have found a sport he truly adores. "I hope to continue forever in Karate and get my black belt and maybe one day become an instructor," said Matches, 27.

"Karate is for everybody and I'm glad I got the chance to join," added Matches, who admitted to falling in love with Bruce Lee and the old martial arts movies growing up as a kid, but sadly didn't have access to the sport.

He also took home bronze last year at the Cree Nation Karate Championships. He's hoping to improve on that in August as he vows to "continue to train hard."

June 23 was the culmination of the five-day Karate camp held beforehand. During that time, the Cree students were able to

compare their skills to others and take instruction from Japanese masters.

At the Canadian Karate Championships in Winnipeg earlier in the month, Cree Head Instructor and Director of the Simba Martial Arts Academy, Etienne Herady, once again took down the competition and claimed his fifth consecutive Canadian title.

**"I LEARNED RESPECT  
AND DISCIPLINE AND I'M  
HAPPY THAT I WON."**

JEREMY MATCHES

"It feels good. I was a little nervous but everything worked out and I beat my record by winning three gold medals," said Herady.

Herady won gold in individual combat, team combat and team Kata. He also won silver in Enbu, which is a series of synchronized moves performed with another person that demonstrates the skill and precision of both fighters.

As happy as Herady was at his victory he was happier for his Cree students.

"They train hard and have come a long way," he said. "I am equally as proud of them all, whether they win a medal or not. I hope one day to hand the school over to a Cree and for one of their own people to become the instructor. That is my dream."

For those interested in the sport, or are looking for alternative ways to get in shape, go to <http://www.academysimba.com/cree.html> for more information and to sign up for the August competition that welcomes people of all skill levels and ages. Best of all, it's free!



*"Regional statistics clearly illustrate that we are living in a very important era of Cree history."*

*"National statistics state that the ability for First Nations to develop their own economies and create meaningful employment will definitely be tested."*



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## Fattening 'em up for next year!

Carl Bosum from O.J., currently attending Canadore College in North Bay, Ontario, was recently caught in the act feeding goslings near the pond at Canadore College. After being asked why he was feeding them rather than killing and plucking the geese, Carl replied, "Fattening up for next year!" So, to all his friends up in Eeyou Istchee, your friends here in North Bay have been looking after you real well for your annual goose harvest, "Fat Geese!" Or should we say, geese fattened up with bread and buns!



Submitted by Roger Chum, Canadore College  
Photo Credit: Jamie-Fawn Mianscum

## Nation picks up more honours

*The Nation* has continued its winning streak by picking up two more awards from the Native American Journalists Association June 9 in Denver, Colorado.

Steve Bonspiel won first place in the Best Editorial category for "The Spirit of the Mohawks," which looked at the Mohawk fight with both levels of government for more land for future generations.

He also picked up second place for "The Classroom in Crisis" in the Best Feature Story category. That article examined the school system in Eeyou Istchee and the lack of preparation for students in Mistissini.

*The Nation* has picked up eight awards overall this year, to go along with two national nominations for the prestigious Canadian Association of Journalists awards.

## Inuit Nobel nominee wins UN award

Sheila Watt-Cloutier of Kuujuaq was awarded a lifetime achievement award by the United Nations for her work in bringing global awareness to the impact of climate change on arctic communities.

Watt-Cloutier said her goal is to put a human face on the often technical issue of climate change. "There is no heartbeat to these global negotiations. There has been no human face to them in many, many years."

The award was presented to Watt-Cloutier June 29 in New York.

Watt-Cloutier is also a nominee for the Nobel Peace prize along with former US vice president Al Gore. The winner of that prize will be announced in October.

## The kids are not alright

A Quebec Human Rights Commission report says that more than half of Nunavik's children live in homes that house an alcoholic or a drug addict.

The study found that family dysfunction is widespread and is exacerbated by overcrowding, substance abuse and violence. Some children in the 139 cases examined have been referred to youth protection as often as 16 times but received no follow up because parents wouldn't cooperate or they were related to agency workers. As a result, many turn to alcohol and drugs. As many as one in 10 teens were known to consume cocaine and/or inhale solvents.

The Quebec government expressed alarm, saying it's important to recognize the extent of the problem and to have more open dialogue with the Inuit community. Benoit Pelletier, the Quebec minister in charge of Aboriginal affairs, stated, "I will be asking for their cooperation in order that the government of Quebec could intervene efficiently, in order to solve the situation in collaboration with the Inuit."

Pelletier went on to say that the Quebec government is already planning an August forum with the Inuit communities.

## Cree students excel

Four Cree students at Quebec's Stanstead College are taking home prizes from the school's Baccalaureate and Prize Giving ceremony. Dawn Namagoose of Eastmain won the Junior School prize for most improved in French Second Language. Nemaska's Shannon Wapachee won the Art Prize for Grade 7. The musical performance prize was won by Chibougamau's Justin Coon. Dale Cooper of Ouje-Bougoumou won an award for his contribution to music in the school.

Stanstead College is a prestigious international co-ed boarding school located in Quebec's Eastern Townships. The college was founded in 1872.

## Chisasibi-Whapmagoostui outing begins in tragedy

The community of Chisasibi is in mourning after a local man suffered a heart attack while kayaking. Edward Tapiatic, a former head of the CRA's traditional pursuits agency was part of a four-man team heading to Whapmagoostui, 200 kilometres away. He died after paddling a distance of about five kilometres.

The trip was organized by Chisasibi's Anglican minister, Douglas McNaughton, who wanted a native on the team. Tapiatic accepted.

"He really loved to paddle in the summer. He wanted to show the younger generation that we can still do this," said Jimmy Fireman, a friend of Tapiatic.

feature

# ABORIGINAL DAY

By Amy German

Photos by Will Nichols and Steve Bonspiel

The annual National Aboriginal Day ceremony and passing of the torch between the Terres en Vues Festival organisers and the organisers of la Fête nationale du Québec went down without a hitch June 21 at the Kondiaronk Beveledere atop Mont Royal.

Dignitaries from different levels of government, First Nations leaders, various performers, filmmakers, artists, indigenous peoples from around the world and curious onlookers all took in the two-hour long civic ceremony accompanied by traditional performances. As the drums saluted the summer sun on the day of the solstice, various aboriginal community members, government officials and participants of Terres en Vues reflected on what National Aboriginal Day meant to them:

**Steven Bonspille**, Chief of Kanesatake: "I feel very good and it's good to state the obvious, that this is Mohawk land and we never gave it up. It's good to see people here, celebrating, knowing that this is National Aboriginal Day. Yes, there are still First Nations here; we have not gone away, such as history books might dictate. We are still here, we are still fighting the fight and doing what is right and trying to make life better for our communities."

Celebrated Canadian director **Alanis Obomsawin**, who has been affectionately nicknamed the godmother of aboriginal cinema, was also on hand to discuss what National Aboriginal Day meant to her. "It's very special to me like it is for all of our people. Last year I came out with a film about the Abenakis and I mentioned that this part





was so important to our people and I am so glad that this tradition is coming back. And also for other people to understand us better and to know that our people really follow nature and they knew that this was the longest day of the year and they did celebrate it and it was very sacred. That is why I feel very good about this, I think it also builds bridges."

Terres en Vues festival organizer **Andre Dudemaine**, was beaming about the success of this year's festival. "This is a reminder of the very beginning of the contact where First Nations [gave] hospitality and food and heat to the people coming from Europe. And in the beginning there was an alliance, there was commerce, there was exchange. So, I think we have to go back to that very first time where everybody understood that the exchange was on equal levels and this is what the ceremony means. This reminder is also a way to re-establish our position as First Nations."

Parti Québécois MNA **Alexis Wawanoloath**: "My mom is Abenaki and my dad is Quebecois and to see the fire of First Nations going, lighting the fire of the Quebec national fire, in front of a big crowd, this is my trip!"

**Waneek Horn-Miller**, who works for Montreal's Friendship Centre: "Obviously every day is Aboriginal day for me. It's a day just to celebrate who we are and that we are here and that we are alive and that our numbers are on the rise and we are proud people."



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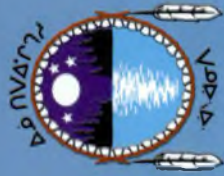
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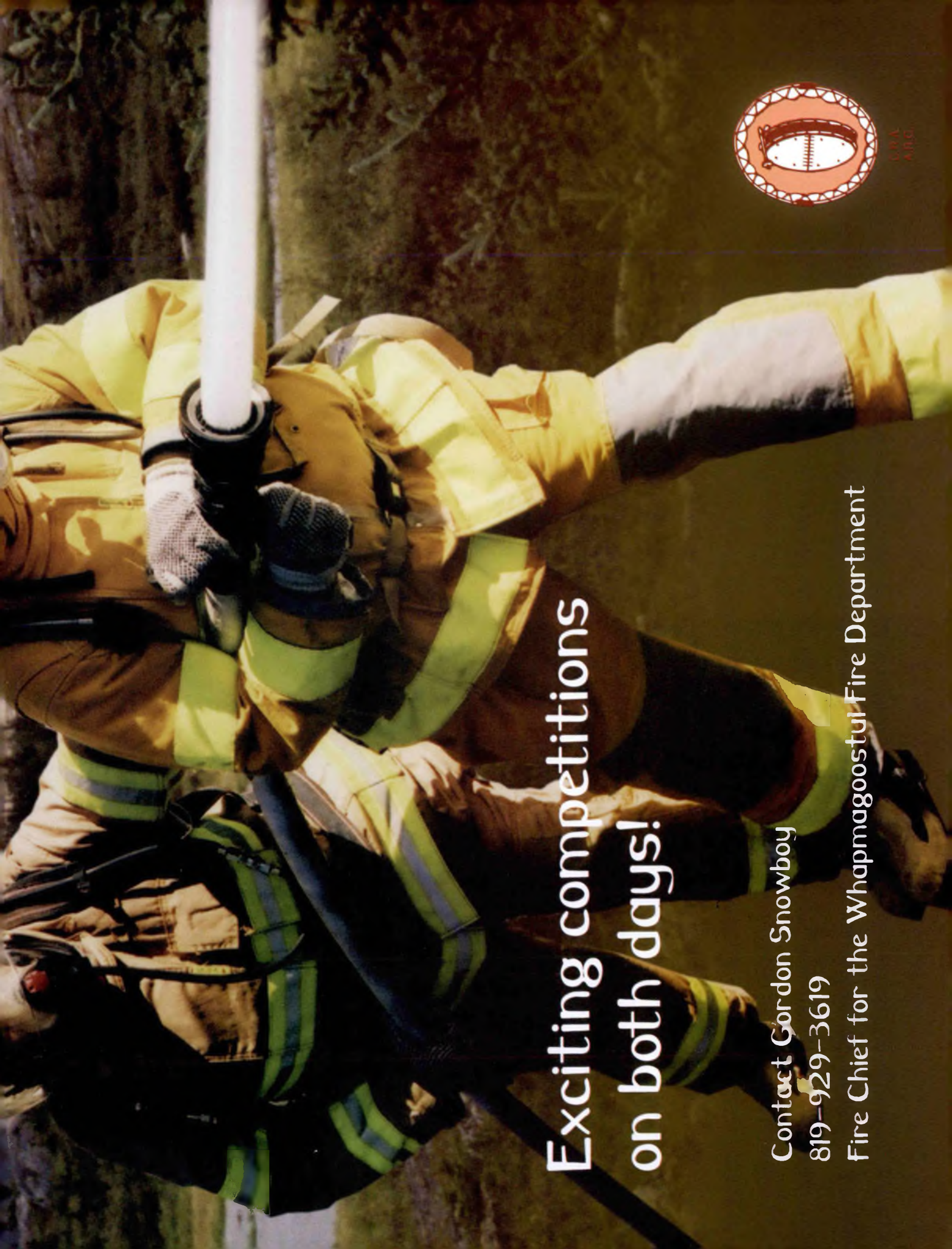
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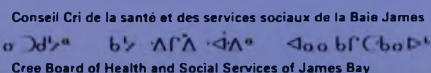


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# Festival highlights

Terres en Vue / Land In Sights

By Amy German

After 11 solid days of film, video, traditional cultural activities, art, songs and anything else that you can fit into a festival, Terres en Vue or Land In Sights finally wrapped up June 21.

This year the festival featured various feature films, documentaries, videos and shorts in the film and video category, with entertainment on a number of silver screens across the city every night. We at the *Nation* took in a handful of events to review just to give you an idea of what the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of this home grown international indigenous cultural extravaganza had to offer.

Juan Mora Catlett's *Erendira Ikkunari* is the story of a Mexican Joan of Arc from Michoacán who raises an army to fight the invading Spaniards. Despite the doubts of King Tangoxán II and the criticisms of the other tribe members of her refusal to marry, Erendira conquers in the true spirit of a warrior. This film is not only visually stunning but a fascinating exploration of the Purepecha language and culture, using unique illustrations, masks and Aztec frescos to depict a legend-like tale of colonization and overcoming odds. With exquisite makeup and phenomenal art direction, this flick is a sure bet.

Filipino director Aureus Solito's film *Tuli*, which translates as "circumcision," or "circumcised," certainly must have raised some eyebrows at this year's fest. Set in a lush, jungle village, *Tuli* follows the stories of Daisy, the daughter of the town's alcoholic baker and Botchok, the daughter of the town circumciser. They find love together after they are both quite disappointed by the village's marriage prospects. This film takes some shocking twists and turns though it manages to remain relatively light and lively all the way through, touching on issues of conformity, rural isolation and the integration of Catholicism with indigenous practices. Though at points this film was ultimately disturbing, its stark, primitive film style, grainy film stock and limited audio effects add to its mysticism and drama.

In Eron Sheean's *William*, an indigenous magician hops into a taxi with two lady friends on the way home from a bar. Unexpectedly, a new passenger claiming to be in distress also gets into the cab and the incident forces William to revisit moments of his life that he would have rather forgotten. This 19-minute Australian short was much more about the lead actor's range than about the actual events in his life but his performance is so brilliant that the film is quite satisfying. This film also won the Festival's Tveikan Grand Prize.

Ana Maria Pavez's *Popol Vuh, the Quiché Maya Creation Myth* is a spectacular Chilean animated short about how the sun and the moon came to be. The animation is based on the murals in Mayan temples, bringing new life to an ancient legend. In *Popol Vuh*, two brothers named Hunahpu and Ixbalanque combat the gods of the underworld and eventually become the sun and the moon. This 11-minute short is visually stunning and engaging to

the extent that the viewer is begging for more at the end. For good reason: it won the best animation film prize at this year's fest.

BC film students Tim Kulchyski, Thomas Hukari, Maria Constandinou and Tizot Olsen came together to create *Xiwhu*, a very short film about sea urchins. This sweet little Canadian film is the story of a man's sick grandmother and her desire for the traditional slhexun medicine. As he tells her story he describes his own difficulty in maintaining traditional methods or harvesting sea urchins due to their decline. Though just over five minutes long, this mini flick was delightful.



Julien Boisvert's and Simon Ip's *Two Spirits: Back in the Circle* is a 20-minute documentary on being homosexual in the context of a First Nations community in Canada. With interpretation from Suzy Goodleaf, Eric Greenan and Harvey Michele, the interviewees discuss the hardships of reconciling a "two spirited" lifestyle with the subsequent rejection from their communities, Christianity, AIDS and why gay aboriginals have the highest suicide rate within any group in Canada. This little doc gave an eye-opening look at the lives of some of society's most forgotten individuals in a thought-provoking manner.

From the US, Cedar Sherbert's *Soy Pedro, Somos Mixteco* paints an intimate portrait of the life of Oaxaca-born labour leader Pedro Lopez. Pedro comes from very little but works very hard, prompting him to want to help others in his situation. Though this film is stunning visually, it is not perhaps as clear as it should be, leaving the viewer lost. Indeed a good effort but not the best film the fest had to offer.



# Resolving Specific Claims Once and For All

The Government of Canada has recently announced a decisive new plan to resolve the backlog of First Nations' specific claims, which is currently more than 800. The plan has been designed to ensure the process is accelerated, and that First Nations are provided with fair and timely resolution of specific claims.

Canada's Specific Claims Action Plan includes:

- An independent claims tribunal;
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- Better access to mediation; and
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Discussions with First Nation and provincial/territorial partners will take place over the coming months. The goal is to bring legislation forward in the fall to implement the plan.

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Canada



photo courtesy of Dave Weatherall

# Federal NDP Leader supports Aboriginal Day of Action

By Amy German

On the eve of National Aboriginal Day, NDP leader Jack Layton gave the aboriginal media the opportunity to chat with him informally on Wawatay Radio Timmins in a format that he described as a "virtual scrum."

Over the course of an hour, seven journalists had the opportunity to pick Layton's brain on various issues affecting Aboriginal communities, including Bill C-44, land claims, investment, the Kelowna accord, and the Conservative party's refusal to adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Layton started off by speaking of how National Aboriginal Day reminds him of when his own family came to Canada back in 1765 and how they were welcomed by the Mi'kmaq people. Had it not been for the hospitality of Canada's first people, Layton said, he would not be here today.

"Unfortunately we are not as welcoming anymore in our cities," he added. "We are not taking responsibility as we are obligated to do for working nation to nation with the First Nations of this land. That is one of our key issues that the national day of protest is going to be raising."

Layton addressed the Conservative government's intention to pass Bill C-44. The law would repeal section 67 of the Human Rights Act, which says that the Indian Act is exempt from the Canadian Human Rights Act, depriving Aboriginal peoples the right to sue the government.

In Layton's opinion, nation-to-nation relationships are what ought to be put into practice. "Most of the witnesses that have appeared suggested that the consultation that needed to happen had not happened," he noted. "We are maintaining contact with all of the groups that have an interest here and we know that there is some diversity in opinion."

Naturally the issue of land claims came up on several occasions.

The NDP, according to Layton, "has supported the call for an independent body to review and resolve these, more than a hundred-year-old disputes over land rights. It's fine to have a treaty but if it's not being implemented, then that treaty is in fact being violated and the word of the crown is not being honoured and that must change."

Though there have been recent talks in Parliament about a dedicated fund of \$250 million a year for 10 years to resolve the land claims issue, Layton is hesitant to trust Harper to carry out the task. "Mr. Harper has not been very good at keeping his promises," said Layton. "In fact he has violated the signature of the government of Canada on the Atlantic Accord."

While the Kelowna Accord would have invested billions to improve the lives of Aboriginal people, the Conservatives redirected the funds to different areas, such as the military. Layton sounded his alarm at the amount that Harper has spent on military hardware. He also worries that Harper may be planning on keeping troops in Afghanistan longer than anticipated.

Canada's current military spending, according to Layton, "has to do with aggressive war fighting, not the peacekeeping role or the national security role or the natural disaster relief role or the sovereignty role which we should be putting as a priority."

Canada has also been under international scrutiny lately for refusing to adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Layton detailed how, over the years, government after government in Canada has been "irresponsible and disrespectful to the point where, in many communities, the quality of life, the essentials of life, are not available and the community's situation is deteriorating. I've been to communities where there are four families with 22 children who live in one house that shouldn't really have more than one family and which is in a terrible state of repair."



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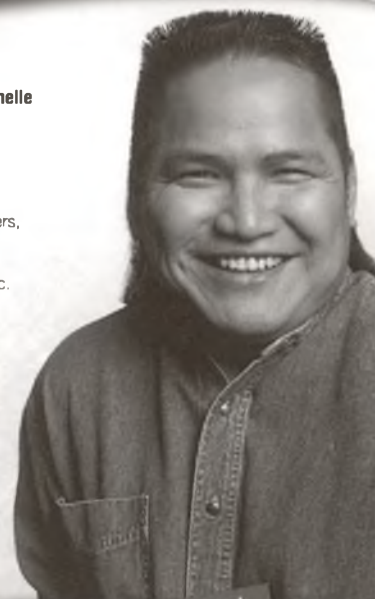
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In response to the government's failure to provide adequate living essentials for some communities, Layton laid out his support to the National Chief's call for action. "I've already mentioned that we wanted nation-to-nation relations, we want a thorough and independent review of all the existing funding mechanisms that would take into account a basic agenda of ending First Nations' poverty."

Layton then went on to describe a four-coloured bracelet that he now wears around his wrist daily that represents the four corners of the globe, the bracelet says, "Make Poverty History for First Nations."

Layton beamed with pride as he spoke of how happy he is to be part of that campaign. "We want to see poverty ended in First Nations communities so that people can have an equal opportunity to build thriving lives, thriving communities and thriving economies as well."

Layton also expressed his frustration in his attempts to get an immediate, complete and unconditional apology on behalf of the Government of Canada for the residential school system tragedy.

Looking towards the future, the NDP would like to see Aboriginal history acknowledged and celebrated on a more national level. The party has proposed that the month of June become National Aboriginal History Month. Some action has been taken at this point in time and the motion is before the House. "It would be celebrated in schools with educational programming, with arts and culture flourishing with history, with special programs of different kinds so that we can be much more aware the history of the Aboriginal communities of this land."

Layton has encouraged all of his party members across Canada to take to the streets and support Canada's Aboriginal people on June 29 as he feels that sometimes it is necessary to push governments and "push hard," to get what's right done.

"I do hope that the protests are peaceful because no doubt the frustration levels will be very, very high, but you can be sure that the government and the media would look for any opportunity to forget about all of the peaceful ones that are happening and focus on the one that caused a controversy or an injury or an arrest, that is where their instincts take them."

## **Congratulations to Elizabeth Nicholls**

We are proud that you have graduated. Best wishes to you in Champlain CEGEP this fall. We all love you.

*The Nicholls family*



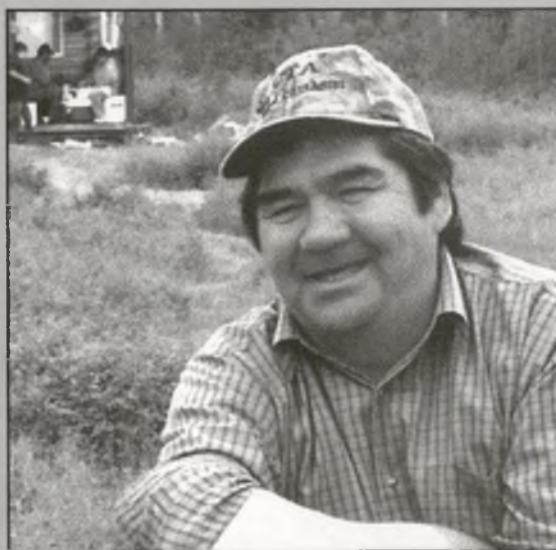
## **SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ANDREW MOAR**

The Nemaskau Eenouch and Eenou Nation has lost one of its most beloved and respected members in a sudden and tragic circumstance. Friend, councillor, mentor and Elder Andrew Moar died May 25, 2007.

Many will each remember Andrew in their own unique and special way and how he touched our lives. Andrew emulated the spirit of a unique and special character. Just a few words or minutes with him would make you feel as if you knew him all your life and that he was and always would be your friend. Of the countless photographs of Andrew there are very few without a smile. He was never too busy to help out and do his part. He was never too burdened to lighten another's load. He was never too selfish to share his blessings with others. He was never too proud to be humble.

One can not help but shed tears when passing by the place where Andrew took his last breath and where his body was found on Nemaska Lake.

**Farewell and thank you Andrew Moar.**





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# History & "Herstory"

By Amy German

History took place from June 20th through 22nd as the National Aboriginal Women's Summit took place in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, bringing together a broad cross section of Aboriginal women including First Nation, Inuit and Métis with Premiers and governmental leaders from across Canada to develop an "Action Plan." The conference, co-hosted by Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams and NWAC, entitled "Strong Women, Strong Communities" was aimed at redressing the political, social and economic disparities between Aboriginal women and all other Canadians.

Says Judy Hughes, President of the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation and the Saskatchewan branch of NWAC, "It was definitely a very historic meeting or should I say "herstoric" meeting because it was the first time that any of the governments sat down to collectively listen to aboriginal women's issues."

The forum was broken down into three themes: health, safety and wellness, being the first, equality, empowerment and strength and balance and honour but the talks were not just about identifying the problems within the communities. Says Hughes, "One of the purposes of the summit was so we could forge partnerships at all government levels, that meant federally, provincially, territorially and also with our Aboriginal government so we could work together on that and many of the issues that we spoke about."

A number of key recommendations came out of the forum, in particular, the group's key goal to end violence against Aboriginal women. The issue was discussed in terms of murdered and missing women, gangs and restorative justice. Says Hughes, "we recognised quite early into the conference that we had identified many issues so it was not a case of having to identify them, it was moving ahead on what we could do to better the life situation of Aboriginal women, children and families."

Another key issue was matrimonial property and evictions, which the summit addressed as an equality right, human rights issue as it connects to violence later on down the road. Says Hughes, "We called for a moratorium on evictions because that is one of the things that have been happening. If there is a breakdown in the relationships or the death of a spouse who happens to be the first nations man, the woman is usually given an eviction notice or told to leave the home because her spouse is no longer there." Women having to leave their homes or who are left in the predicament of having to relocate due to matrimonial property issues are left very vulnerable and, says Hughes, "it crosscuts into a number of issues for us."

A number of new research areas were also established at the summit including gestational diabetes in Aboriginals, an area that has not seen much research previously, but is significantly on the rise.

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**"It was definitely a very historic meeting or should I say "herstoric" meeting because it was the first time that any of the governments sat down to collectively listen to aboriginal women's issues."**

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Says Hughes, "another key message was that we wanted all of our governments to know how critical it was that Canada supports the UN forum on indigenous people." Though the Aboriginal women's groups met with various government members in regards to the UN recommendations and felt that some of the ministers on hand did support them, says Hughes, "they were more just listening, we did not get too much of a confirmation one way or the other."

Those who attended the conference agreed to reconvene in eighteen months time to revisit the issues discussed in Corner Brook to examine what kind of progress has been achieved according to the framework of collective desires created at this past summit.

On a federal level, Bev Oda, federal minister for the status of women made an announcement that Ottawa would invest \$56 million over five years for family violence prevention programs however the announced funding is slated for reserves only and not for the territories. Oda said that the funding will go to 35 existing shelters and to the construction of up to five new ones, but for the reserves systems only which the Inuit do not use.

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# UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

## Damned if you do and damned if you don't

by Xavier Kataquapit

It is that time of year again when we all head out into the warm weather to soak up the sun and get some fresh air. It is also a fact that we have to put up with a multitude of biting insects. I am a bit of an expert when it comes to dealing with all these insects considering that I come from the muskeg country. They don't call us the Swampy Cree for nothing. However, it doesn't mean I am oblivious to all the creepy flying and crawling insects while I am trying to cool off in the back yard on a hot summer evening.

There is a notion that most people think that because I am Native, I am somehow impervious to insect bites. I am no less susceptible to being bitten by mosquitoes and black flies than anyone else around me. However, I am like most people from up the coast. I have been bitten so often during the summer months from the time I was born that mosquitoes and black flies don't really bother me so much. I more or less put up with them. I have grown accustomed to living with these tiny creatures. They are a natural part of my world.

I learned from my elders that one must just put up with these creatures because they are only around for a month or two. This is a fact of life when you live in the muskeg. I was taught that the only thing you can do is to build a tolerance to mosquitoes. At the start of the season insect bites will stand out and cause pain but after a week or so you just simply get accustomed to it. I mean what choice do you really have if you are more or less landlocked and surrounded by swamp?

In recent years I have had to change my belief that mosquitoes are just annoying creatures that want to take some of your blood. In this modern world, mosquitoes are now capable of more than just taking away your blood and causing some minor annoyance.

For almost a decade now, there has been an emerging problem with West Nile Virus, a virus that affects some mammals and birds including humans and it is carried and transmitted by mosquitoes. Although it was originally a virus that started in Africa centuries ago, it was introduced into the North American environment near the city of New York in 1999. It is believed that it was established by an infected bird or mosquito. From that small start, the virus has slowly spread from one small biting mosquito to the next and moved west in the United States and north into Canada.

There are different affects of the virus on humans. For most people the virus is an asymptomatic infection, meaning we don't know when we are infected and some people may develop mild

symptoms of infection such as fever, headache and body aches. For those with a weakened immune system, which includes people with chronic disease or who are receiving medical treatment that weakens the immune system (such as chemotherapy), an infection is a serious situation. This can develop into West Nile meningitis or encephalitis that can seriously affect the nervous system and can turn fatal.

To deal with this situation and the fear of becoming infected with some strange disease, we are turning to some old products that we once thought were dangerous to our health. Years ago, an insect repellent known as DEET was in the news as being a health hazard. For a long time, the amount of DEET that was made available was limited due to health concerns. With the emergence of West Nile Virus, these concerns are now being pushed aside for fears of the increased potential of contracting a serious disease like West Nile.

There is an ongoing debate concerning the use of DEET products in consideration that a mosquito bite these days can be very serious. Damned if you do and damned if you don't. The answer from most health officials seems to be a middle ground where we balance the use of repellents that use DEET and also our exposure to mosquito infested areas and times of the day.

According to Health Canada, parents should not use repellents with DEET on children under six months of age. For children between six months to two years of age the least concentrated product of 10 percent DEET should be used just once a day in situations where there is high risk for mosquito bites and prolonged use should be avoided. For those from two to 12, a repellent with 10 percent DEET should be used no more than three times a day and prolonged use should be avoided. For those older than 12, including adults, products with 30 percent DEET are available and will provide sufficient protection. However, prolonged use such as daily application over weeks should be avoided.

Instead of putting myself at risk for mosquito bites or applying a potentially harmful chemical to my skin, I revert back to my old way of dealing with insects. Stay indoors where you are protected, if you are outside wear clothing that will cover your body and just wait until these tiny flying monsters disappear. All this will only last a month or two and don't forget we still have many cold months where we don't have to worry about the bugs. My people sat patiently in their shelters in the summers for thousands of years waiting for these bugs to go away. It is no big deal. We can do the same today.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### BIRTHS — 100

I would like to congratulate my niece, Jennifer Mianscum-Lalancette and her boyfriend, Guillaume Langevin on the birth of their baby son, Felix who was born in Chibougamau. Congratulations and take good care of your bundle of joy. From the Cooper's in Ouje.

Congratulations to my friend Marion Whiskeychan on the birth of the baby boy \*Rayden Tyress Whiskeychan\* born on June 14/2007. 8lbs 13 oz. Take good care of the lil' one. From: your friend, April Blueboy n Siigun Blueboy xoxo...can't wait too see your baby boy...(Waskaganish).

We would like to congratulate to my sister, Marion Whiskeychan on their baby boy \*Rayden Tyress Whiskeychan\*. This precious baby boy came into this world on June 14/2007. Weighing in at 8lbs 13oz..he was born at 3.10 am. Well, take good of your son. From: Francine, Priscilla, Linda, Claudia, Justine Whiskeychan. (Wask)

### BIRTHDAYS — 101

Happy Birthday to my Mom, Margaret Niquanicappo. Her B-day is on June 30, 2007. I wish you well and good health. We love you very much and thanks for being there when I need you. Love Mary and baby Charlie Niquanicappo.

Happy Birthday to my little nephew, Wesley George in Whapmagoostui. His B-



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# CLASSIFIEDS

day is on July 7, 2007. We love you very much. From Mary and baby Charlie Niquanicappo.

I would like to wish my mom, Emma Mianscum a happy 74th birthday on June 18th. I really hope you enjoyed your day, as much as we did celebrating it with you. You were so sweet and when you sang to me, I cried. Your voice was so sweet and the melody that came out was so soft. I love you mom and I wish you many more wonderful years. God Bless You Mom. Love & hugs to you. Margo in Ouje. Also, I want to send my best wishes to my bro, Bentley who celebrated his birthday on June 24th. I know you were not home, so wherever you were, hope you had a wonderful day. I bet you went to Montreal for your birthday. I heard that there was a big celebration going on. Love ya, bro. From your sis, Margo in Ouje.

Birthday wishes to Dawn Daisy Pashagumeskum on July 8, 2007. Dawn will be celebrating her 5th birthday. HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAWN PASH!! with lots of love mom, Dad, Leila & Simeon.

I would like to say Happy 16th birthday to my brother Tyson Silas Longchap on July 12, 2007 & many more to come! I lub you so much... From ur sister Jordana\_x0x

This birthday wish goes out to our baby brother Lenny Boy. His birthday is on July 7th. He will be 2 years old. You are so special to us and we love you so much. Have fun on your special day. Hugs & kisses

to you. With love always: Jason, Jaydon, & Jaydrien

Happy 2nd birthday to our baby boy Lenny Rodney William Stephen on July 7th, 2007. Since the day you came into our lives, you have brought us so much joy and happiness. We thank the lord for a precious gift like you. Happy Birthday to you, Lenny boy. We love you so so so much. With love: mom and dad (Charlene, Robert).

On June 22 my lil' man celebrated his 3rd birthday. with his two action hero cakes, a barbeque and his annual pool party. I know I am not the best mom to you but you are everything I could ever hope for. You have taught me so much through these years and will forever and ever. Your the reason why there is love reflecting in my eyes and you are the glue that holds mum-me together. I got ur back :) Josiah Thomas Atsinya - 2peas-in-a-pot - Lore & Siah (I) Letting you know I love and will continue to do so and I will embrace and cherish every moment that I am lucky enough to share with you...my heart...simply just my better half. Love 4ever & 4 all time ur mum-me. Lorelee Atsinya.

Sending birthday wishes to my niece Candace (Candi) Moar who was born on July 1st. Enjoy your birthday Candi, you lucky girl, you get to have the same birthday as our nation's birthday. I guess all Canadians celebrate your birthday, nah...lol. Luv u always Candi! Auntie Judy.

We would like to send a special birthday greeting to our grandson Tyson Moar-McLeod...Who will be turning 2 years old

on the 30th of June...We love you so much and we are so blessed to have a grandson like you.....HAPPY BIRTHDAY TYSON, Love you always, love: Granny and Grandpa McLeod xoxoxo (Moose Factory).

Sending to a belated birthday greetings to my nephews: 1st: Davey-James Matoush who celebrated his 1st birthday on April 26/07. 2nd: Isaish Matoush on June 9/07, who turned 7 yrs. old. Anjabow! D-J & Iya, love you boys very much & miss you a lot too. I can't wait to see you in the summer. Sending lots of hugs & kisses! Love Auntie Judy xoxoxo.

Wishing belated birthday greetings to a special person in my life, my friend, my Mom, Janie Washapabano Kanatewat. She celebrated her birthday on June 15/07, sorry Mom! I wish I could've been there with you on your special day, but I thought of you all day & I love you always. Wishing you many, many more to come. Mwah!!! Love always your daughter, Judy xoxoxo.

July is a month full of birthdays for my family back home in Chisasibi. First of all, my one and only brother, Robert Snowboy Jr. on July 9, and his wife Cheyenne on July 13th. My auntie Jennifer on July 14th, my uncle Paul on July 9th, my aunt and uncle on July 13th, (George and Elizabeth). There is one special wish that is going out to my mother, her birthday is on the 27th of July. I love you mom with all my heart even though you do not hear it from me that often. Happy birthday to all of you and many more to come. From Dina and Melissa in Mistissini. xoxoxoxoxox.

Sending a happy birthday to a miracle child, our sister Kate Sharl who will be turning 4 on July 17. Happy birthday Kate, you are so special to us we enjoy being your big sisters everyday. We thank the lord everyday to have you here with us and seeing you grow up so fast and for healing you. You lift us up when we're down, your our lil' sunshine when the sky is grey, your our little angel. Love always, Meegun, Peyton and Siikun (Faith). We love you.

I would like to send a birthday greeting out to a very special person in my life, Tyson Moar-McLeod...He's now turning 2 years old on June 30, 2007 and he'll be spending his 2nd birthday in M.F...I LOVE YOU SO MUCH MY BOY!!!!...Happy birthday and many more to come!!!!...Love: Your Dad, Anthony McLeod (Moose Factory)...ps "love you, so much, always"

Happy Belated Birthdays to the following special people. To our beautiful niece Rita on June 17. We love you always, remember that, no matter what! Love from Judy, Ray and Karissa. To the man in our life Raymond on June 21, we love you unconditionally. With love your daughter Karissa and me Judy.

## Anniversaries - 103

II would like to wish a Happy 56th Anniversary to my Grand-parents Samuel & Jean Edwards and to my friend/Cuz Jennifer & Phil Shecapio on their anniversary on June 27, 2007...much love for both of ya! Fr: J.J.L. a.k.a. Juda..lol


I would like to congratulate Neeshimsh (Peter) and his wife (Yvonne) on their fifth anniversary on June 8 (I hope I got the date right) Happy Birthday to their first born child (Alicia) on that day, they finally chose to wed. Love from Judy in OJ.

## PERSONAL MESSAGES - 300

We want to wish our dad and grandpa, Henry Cooper, a happy belated father's day. We missed you dad/grandpa on father's day, but you were close to our hearts. Waiting for the day you come home. We love you and hope you know that we love you and did not forget you on this special day. Love you, from Sarah, Nicole, Dion and Chantal in Ouje.

Happy Father's Day to my Dad, Robert Kanatewat on June 17/07. Hope you were rested & relaxed on Papa's Day...lol I love you very much, with all my heart, Daddy! Love Judy xoxoxo

Father's Day Tribute In Loving Memory of Gabriel Brian Shecapio Blacksmith; Because I will not be home on Father's Day, this is my tribute to my dad, my grandpa, and to my relatives and friends who are dads. And from my heart, with this tribute, I will share with you the love I have known from Gabbs. Two years ago on June 19th, it was a beautiful day and it was the first time I ever felt my heart fall heavy and break. That day, sometime in the afternoon, I received news from Quebec City. One of my cousins I was closest too; at the tender age of 21, Gabriel had passed away ... on his first Father's Day ... to his only child, Abriel. We know he was an awesome, loving proud father. He was in Quebec, determined to finish his carpentry course, so that he could provide for his new little family and make a better life this way. Gabriel, there is so much I can say about him, he was a bright, intelligent, funny, friendly young man. He respected those who respected him, and he valued his family and friends. When I look back and think of his



## Airfare REDUCTION PROGRAM

The Airfare Reduction Program allows residents of certain outlying and isolated regions of Québec to travel at reduced cost, for personal reasons and when accompanying a patient who requires healthcare services, through a partial refund of their airfare.

Refund forms are available at the airports, at the offices of the Cree Councils of Waswanipi, Oujé-Bougoumou and Mistissini, at the city halls of Chapais, Chibougamau, Label-sur-Quévillon and Matagami, and at the office of the locality of Radisson and at the Conférence régionale des élus de la Baie-James.

For any request for information, the James Bay population must contact the Conférence régionale des élus de la Baie-James at 1 800 516-4111, extension 232.

The form and additional information on the Airfare Reduction Program are also available at the following address:

**www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca**

**Transports  
Québec**

life, he was a soldier, a warrior. He was a young man who went through many struggles and through them all, he fought for better days. He brought better days for many who were going through rough ones. To me, him and his life, was like...many times there was a thunderstorm in his life, but I would still look for the sun and look forward to the rainbow. In my life, in my thunderstorms, many times he was my rainbow, either during or after my thunderstorm. Sometimes, he'd be the sun peeking in during my dark days and he'd bring a smile to my face. I remember when he talked about the day he would leave his little girl to go to Quebec, he said, "I hope it won't be a sunny day. I hope it rains, so hard that it rains into a thunderstorm. I don't want to go, but I have to finish this. I guess we all gotta go through some s\*t to get some good." Another time during goose break two years ago, I clearly remember how he told me about his daughter's birth. He said it was like a burst of happiness he never felt before, like nothing can ever take that away from him, and he also said he wasn't used to such happiness. He also felt a fear, but since his girl was born, he said he was having much better and happier days. Gabriel, for me, he's in the spirit of the thunder, reminding me to keep going and look forward to the rainbow. His smile is in the sun. The spirit of the geese and their teachings remind me of him. I guess because of the goose that's in the middle of his cross that stands on his island at Lake Gabriel. There's much that reminds me of him and with all this, I keep him close in my heart. I know

many of us do. Gabriel, to me — he's a hero. During the last days of his life, as a father and a young man, he listened to learn, he taught, taught lessons that can't be seen, read or touched, and through the many thunderstorms he passed, he was able to encourage. He did all this, not because he had too, but because he wanted too, and that to me...is a hero. R.I.P Gabbs I.L.U. I thank God for Gabriel. He taught me many lessons by the way he viewed and the way he lived life. Although I sometimes think God took him too soon, I find myself thinking: I guess his purpose here on earth was to leave us many smiles and lessons, but for him; and how he lost his dad at 2 years old...I think maybe his purpose was too feel a Father's Love. Thank you for your love dad; and to you dad and to my relatives and friends who are dads; I hope that you feel that love, strength, peace, and happiness when you look into the eyes of your children, you know they love you. I wish for all of you to be surrounded with happiness and love on Father's Day. May God Bless You. I will miss Camo-Memorial Day, but to everyone who will be there; I hope you all have a great time...and from my heart, to my family and friends...or to who is reading this; if there are ever thunderstorms in your life, I hope you look forward to the rainbow or search for the warmth from the sun. Take Care. Nii, Bones.

Congratulations to Minnie Masty on her upcoming wedding on June 29th, 2007, in Whapmagoostui. You're a great, strong woman and you have helped a lot of people

by your work as a social worker. From  
Mary and Charlie Niquanicappo.

**HUSKY (pure) dog for sale @ \$300, negotiable. 1yr old. Male. White & greyish fur. Very strong. Playful. Healthy. For more information. (819) 824-9633 Reason: We are moving.**

I would like to wish Happy Father's Day to my dad William Longchap and to my Bro William "woody" I love you so much! & to the father of my son Peterson Brien..loving you each day Fr Maggie ..xox..

I am responding to Hillary Icebound's comment, well girl, I hope you come around this summer, I'm expecting to see you, we need to catch up on our stories...lol...well, I hope I see you soon. I'll leave my email so you can add me H\_virgol9@hotmail.com Well, see ya soon Hillary....from your friend in Waswanipi, Hazel =}

I would like to send Father's day greetings to my daddy, Anthony Mcleod...I will always love you dad!!...HAPPY FATHER'S DAY...With love: Your one and only son Tyson Antoine Lee Moar-McLeod....P.S. Love you, so much, always!!

I am a 39 year old volunteer firefighter from the Abenaki indian reserve in lower Quebec. I am collecting shoulder patches from native fire departments in Canada. If you could send this message to the northern fire departments and contribute to make my collection a **great** success.

Sincerely Jean-Marc Normand vf #55.  
petitmanitou@hotmail.com.

We would like to congratulate our one and only daughter (Catherine Annie Bosum) from Ouje. She will be graduating from kindergarten on June 18, 2007, and on the 19th our son will be graduating from grade 6 french (Charlie Jeffrey Bosum). We're so proud of you two, we love you both so much. From: Mom (Ellen), Dad (Jimmy James) and ur bro's (Isaiah, Saabiell, & Alexander) xoxoxoxoxox.

I would like to congratulate my nephew, Ryan Weapenicaapo of Moose Factory on his Grade 8 Graduation on June 27. Sorry that I couldn't make it. I hope you like your gift though. Love your Aunt Judy in Oujebougoumou. (I will see you guys in August.)

Looking for someone to sublet my apartment in Montreal for a full year. If you're a student that is fine as well. It's a 4 1/2, 2 bed rooms kitchen, and living room. If you are Interested you can move in as soon as you would like to. Call me at 418-745-3901 & ask for Olivia Couchees.

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal has a 1-800 number. You can now reach us toll-free at: 1-866-403-4688. Please check out our website at: [www.nwsm.info](http://www.nwsm.info) and feel free to give us any feedback.

Do you need help? Someone to talk to? Call Kid's Help Phone's toll-free at: 1-800-668-6868, or visit: [www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca](http://www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca).

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# A NISKAMOON T.E.H.Q. PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY



## MEET CATHY ISERHOFF, GLEN SALT & THEIR FOUR CHILDREN!

Cathy and Glen have both decided to walk the path of higher education. With their three children in tow and a fourth one on the way, Cathy and Glen have both showed us what perseverance and dedication can accomplish. They have relocated to Rouyn-Noranda where they enrolled at the Centre Elizabeth-Bruyere to obtain their pre-requisites necessary to enter into the regular Niskamoon T.E.H.Q. Program. Cathy has successfully graduated from this upgrading program and has just completed her first year as an Electro Mechanic student at the Centre Polymetier. Glen, who didn't speak French when he first came to us, is on his way to completing his upgrading program and presently attending the French Immersion Program in St-Hyacinthe. Glen will be ready for the regular T.E.H.Q. Program next fall where he will be registered as an Electro Mechanic student alongside his wife.

The kids are also having a great time! Julie, Celine, and Gretzky are now all trilingual. French has become an everyday language for them. Julie, 9 years old, has been taking dance lessons paid for by the Niskamoon Student Activity Fund and has been applauded with true talent by her instructor. Celine, who is 6 years old, has been showing remarkable progress since she first started her swimming lessons. Now, it's just a matter of time before Gretzky, 3 years old, can hit the ice with the other kids! The Board of Directors and staff at Niskamoon Corporation would like to congratulate Cathy and Glen on their accomplishments and wish them the best of luck!

*For more information on how to enroll into our Pre-Requisite Training Program or the T.E.H.Q. Training Program, please contact Andrea Kitchen, CSB Recruitment/Administrative Officer toll-free at 1-877-441-1101.*

